

MEMORANDUM

January 30, 2004

SEPA File No. 02-091300

TO: All interested parties

FROM: Jenifer Gitchell, SEPA Center Manager

SUBJECT: **FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (FEIS) FOR THE LAKE WHATCOM LANDSCAPE PLAN AND ADDENDUM TO THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DEIS)**

This is to advise you that pursuant to WAC 197-11-360 and WAC 197-11-455, the Department of Natural Resources has issued the Final Non-Project Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Addendum for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the following:

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources is proposing a landscape plan for approximately 15,700 acres of forested state trust lands in the Lake Whatcom Landscape Planning Area. The department needs to prepare a landscape plan to guide both short-term and long-term management for those state trust lands, consistent with DNR's Forest Resource Plan (1992), Habitat Conservation Plan (1997), Forest Practices Rules and Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 6731 (E2SSB 6731) [2000 Washington Laws Chapter 205], which was passed in 2000. The purpose of the landscape plan is to provide a set of management strategies that will ensure environmental protection on DNR-managed lands and contribute to water quality in the planning area while also preserving the economic viability of those same lands for the long-term benefit of trust beneficiaries.

DEIS Addendum: The attached addendum has changed the Preferred Alternative presented in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Lake Whatcom Landscape Plan by adding a new objective (Objective 22) and editing the wording of Objective 16 to provide clarification.

A copy of the FEIS and the Addendum to the DEIS has been posted to our agency website. You may download or review this and other SEPA documents related to this file at our web address:

<http://www.dnr.wa.gov>.

The Department will submit the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Lake Whatcom Landscape Plan to the Board of Natural Resources. Implementation, pending Board approval, will occur no sooner than **March 2004**.